

71 to substantially fill the space and cover all of the sites, the sites being such that when excess fluid is subsequently withdrawn through the one or another opening some of said liquid is left at said sites; and

encoded information associated with at least one of said upper and lower surfaces,
said encoded information including address information for at least one of said reaction
sites.

92 97. (Twice Amended) The assay plate structure of claim 96 wherein the other of the upper and lower plates [may comprise] includes a reflecting surface for providing improved signal detection.

98. (Twice Amended) The assay plate structure of claim 89 wherein the plate structure is provided in the form of a disc and said [includes digitally] encoded information is digitally encoded.

93 99. (Thrice Amended) The assay plate structure of claim 98 wherein at least a portion of the plate structure is transparent for optical inspection of said wells [and encoded information from outside the disc].

94 105. (Twice Amended) An optically transparent structure for conducting assays, said structure comprising:

one or more chambers, each having an upper surface and a lower spaced opposed surface, said upper and lower surfaces defining a space therebetween, the lower surface having a plurality of surface locations bearing a hydrophillic coating, the spacing between said upper and lower surfaces being provided to facilitate fluid flow by capillary action of a fluid introduced into said space to cover all of the locations bearing a hydrophillic coating; and

encoded information associated with at least one of said upper and lower surfaces,
said encoded information including address information for at least one of said plurality of
surface locations.

75 107. (Amended) The structure of claim 105 wherein areas of said lower surface between said locations [having] include hydrophobic coatings.

76 110. (Twice Amended) The structure of claim 108 wherein said [including digitally] encoded address information is provided for optical inspection [thereof] of said at least one of said plurality of surface locations from exteriorly of said structure.

77 119. (Amended) The structure of claim 118 wherein the structure is made of plastic and said one or more inserts is [provided to be] snap-fitted onto the disc.

78 123. (Twice Amended) A multi-reaction site assay plate structure comprising:
an upper surface and a lower opposed surface, said upper and lower surfaces defining a space therebetween, the lower surface having a plurality of separate reaction sites, the reaction sites being treated to increase the hydrophilicity thereof, and the lower surface being treated to increase the hydrophobicity of the surface other than at said reaction sites, the spacing between said upper and lower surfaces being provided to facilitate the flow of fluid in said space by capillary action of a fluid introduced into said space through said opening to cover all of the sites; and
encoded information associated with at least one of said upper and lower surfaces,
said encoded information including address information for at least one of said reaction sites.

79 131. (Twice Amended) The assay plate structure of claim ^{should be 123} (126) wherein said [the plate structure includes digitally] encoded address information is digitally encoded.

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action of 10/23/2002, Applicant has amended claims 89, 97, 98, 99, 105, 107, 110, 119, 123, and 131 as indicated above. All of the rejected base claims have been amended as indicated. The remaining dependent claims referenced below which are not hereby specifically amended are considered to include the